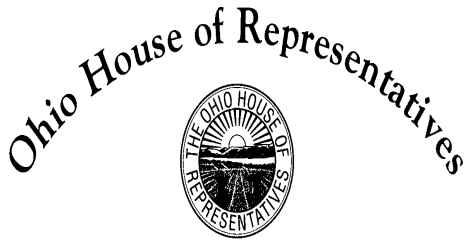


18th DISTRICT

17157 Rabbit Run Drive
Strongsville, Ohio 44136
Phone: (440) 238-7132
Fax: (440) 238-6963

STATEHOUSE

77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
Office: (614) 466-4895
Fax: (614) 644-9494
Toll Free: 1-800-282-0253
E-mail: district18@ohr.state.oh.us



Thomas F. Patton

State Representative
18th Ohio House District

Serving:

**Berea, North Royalton, Olmsted
Falls, Olmsted Township and
Strongsville**

COMMITTEES

Banking Pensions & Securities
Finance & Appropriations
Vice Chair-Transportation &
Justice Subcommittee
Insurance
Public Utilities
Rules Reference

Appointed

Select Committee on
Ohio's Energy Policy

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
c/o Marlene H. Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., TW-B402
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: SBC Docket No. 03-167

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to express my support for SBC Communications' long distance application that is pending before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

As the representative to the 18th district of the Ohio House of Representatives, and a member of the House Public Utilities Committee, I understand the impact of this decision on Ohio's consumers and businesses in realizing the benefits of competition and choice for their telecommunications services. Our state has seen a dramatic increase in competition for the local phone service market. Opening the long distance market to full competition will provide consumers with more choices and lower prices. In these challenging economic times, consumers need all the savings they can get.

As a member of the Ohio General Assembly, I am concerned about those issues that create investment and expand job growth in my district and in throughout the state. The FCC's approval of SBC's long distance application will encourage the company to continue its investment in Ohio and the more than 10,000 people who work here.

Ohioans are eager to join consumers in more than 40 states that have seen the benefits of long distance competition respectfully request the Federal Communication Commissions approval of SBC's long distance application in Ohio. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Thomas Patton
State Representative